



Senate Finance Committee
SB 774 – Maryland Pathways to Nursing Program and Advisory Committee - Establishment
March 8, 2023
Favorable

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) supports *Senate Bill 774- Maryland Pathways to Nursing Program and Advisory Committee – Establishment*. The bill provides an innovative approach to increase the graduation and licensure rates of certified nurse assistants (CNA) in licensed practical nursing (LPN) programs at community colleges. LPNs would be well positioned for success in furthering their education required to be a registered nurse.

The Maryland Pathways to Nursing Program is an innovative model that recognizes nursing students need an integrated support system in order to be successful. The program would provide support for tuition and other education costs. There are other programs that offer scholarship support, but this Program is different because it addresses the other social determinants that impact the success of nursing students. The Program’s advisory committee will develop the list of wrap around support services that would be provided, and we would expect child care to be a priority. Many nursing students face barriers to affordable child careⁱ. This problem is more difficult to overcome for students from Black and brown communities because of the lack of institutional resources.

Our state is facing a drastic nursing shortage.ⁱⁱ We need bold, new solutions to support new nursing students. We ask for a favorable report. Please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net if we can provide more information.

ⁱ Díaz MI, Sánchez MS, Tanguma J. Predictors of success for Hispanic nursing students in the first BSN course. *Hisp Health Care Int.* 2012;10(2):84-92. doi:10.1891/1540-4153.10.2.84

Dolan DM, Young EA, Cesario S, Symes L. Arriving at success: Academic management by Hispanic nursing students during the first semester of a baccalaureate program. *Hisp Health Care Int.* 2015;13(3):140-50.

ⁱⁱ <https://www.mhaonline.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/2022-state-of-maryland-s-health-care-workforce-report.pdf>